

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
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ORGANIZATION NOTES

THE PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION IN ENGLAND

THE State Society has gained a conspicuous victory in having secured from Parliament the promise of a commission to inquire into the whole nursing question.

This will be the best thing that has happened in nursing affairs, as it will bring the whole subject into the light of public opinion and will undoubtedly hasten the day of legal status.

THE ENGLISH REGISTRATION MOVEMENT

THE opposition in England to the State registration movement has been in character quite incredibly violent and tenacious. It has been also, we must frankly say, as stupid and unintelligent an opposition as we have ever had the unique experience of beholding. Its arguments have been as feeble, cloudy, and lengthy as its position has been obstinate. And what is it all about? No one can tell. The English nurses themselves do not all know. But the one bit of solid ground seems to be the fear that under registration there will be no way of knowing whether a nurse is a moral and kind person. But as Miss Stewart very aptly pointed out, the laity can tell for themselves whether a nurse is kind and moral, but they cannot tell whether she knows how to nurse or prepare for an operation. Besides, what is to prevent the public from inquiring at the training-schools about the nurse's qualities, just as they may do now? There is nothing in registration to prevent it.

After all, it is a great thing to live in a land where people are willing to try experiments. The present chaos in nursing education is bad. Why not try State regulation? It can do no harm and may do great good. At any rate, the skies cannot fall or the world come to an end. And there is nothing else in sight to try.

The English Society for Registration has done splendid work. All its statements, replies, and arguments are clear and definite—moreover, rational and temperate. Mrs. Fenwick as secretary has worked with all her accustomed energy, speaking, travelling, and writing.

But the whole truth in a nutshell is that a small group of men now enjoy the control of the profits from private duty (*not*, let us hasten to add, for themselves, but for their hospitals), and they are afraid this will be lost to them under registration. But they do not say this. Hence the fog, the winds, and the sandstorms.

The "Second Annual Report of the English Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses," just issued, is a masterly document and shows an

amount of work done that is simply amazing. The society now numbers over twelve hundred, and its educational propaganda has been so active and so intelligent that the question of registration is being discussed on every hand. Scotland has followed Ireland in line with a strong committee of nurses, physicians, and lay members to promote the cause.

Finding their bill blocked in the House of Commons by the opposition, a committee from the society, courageous and undaunted, appeared by appointment before the Public Health Committee of the House of Commons and invited the "consideration of the appointment of a select committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question."

It seems likely that this will be the way by which a final conclusion will be reached.

THE first annual report of the German Nurses' Association has reached us, and shows most encouraging progress and success. As, however, printed matter in a foreign tongue is less satisfactory than interviews by word of mouth, we will not attempt details until after having talked with the German nurses and their devoted president, Fräulein Agnes Karll, and by the time this appears these looked-for meetings will have been an accomplished fact.

LETTER

ATHENS.

A GREAT disappointment in Athens was not seeing Miss Klonare, the Greek nurse who was trained in America and who is usually to be found at the Children's Hospital. My stay in Athens was divided into two parts. During the first part Miss Klonare was with a patient. When I returned later to Athens after trips in the country, and went to the hospital to see her, I learned that she had gone away on vacation. I wanted very much to become acquainted with her, that we might establish friendly relations with nurses in Athens; also, naturally, wanted to urge her to send an occasional message to the JOURNAL. However, Miss Jean Stilson, of the Massachusetts General, was in Athens at the same time, and longer than I. She knows Miss Klonare, and saw her once, and through her kindness our JOURNAL with the mention of the Greek maidens going to American training-schools was conveyed to Miss Klonare, and by her, I think, to the Crown Princess, who is interested in nursing affairs.

Miss Stilson and I went together to the Evangelismos Hospital in Athens, and were delighted with it. The Greeks are very solicitous of the welfare of their sick; they make great efforts for their hospitals and are very proud of them. At the time of their last war much excellent constructive and enduring work was done for hospital improvement by Mrs. Fenwick and her staff of English nurses, who were placed in charge of the hospitals at that time. True, there is not yet a regular training-school in Athens, but all the hospitals for acute diseases are well cared for by trained nurses holding diplomas from modern hospitals. At the Eye-Hospital there is an English nurse. At the Children's Hospital, Miss Klonare and other English-speaking nurses. At the Evangelismos, which is the large general hospital, a Danish trained nurse is in charge, and has under her a large staff of nurses, all of whom are in uniform and cap, and of whom some have had German training, or hospital experience elsewhere, while others came from the different mission schools of the East to

acquire the practical knowledge of nursing which they need, and for which this large hospital with its general service is admirably fitted. But they do not, as I understand, receive any theoretical course or serve for any definite time, although such women usually stay for two or three years.

On the afternoon when Miss Stilson and I went over to the hospital the Danish matron was, unfortunately, out, and we were shown through by a young surgeon who spoke English. He was most courteous and showed us over the entire building. He did not, however, know a great deal about the nurses (not a bad fault, I am sure), and there were few of them who spoke anything but their native tongues. The hospital was most exquisitely clean and orderly, a shining tribute to the management of the Danish matron. It is quite modern in its plan and details, and while its appointments were not costly or lavish, they were sufficient and good, and the wards and rooms looked pleasant and comfortable. It seemed to be the custom not to use bedspreads. The beds were made up just with sheets and blankets—why, I know not. The usual Greek bedspreads are of crimped white seersucker, thin and light, which would make nice spreads for hospital beds. The nurses did not all look trim or neat in dress. One got the impression that some kind of drapery would suit them better than modern dress, which they did not all seem to know how to put on well or with attention to collar-bands, armholes, etc. The ward maids too were neither neat nor picturesque, evidently suffering from being in a transition period. The young surgeon, however, was immaculate in white linen gown. The patients looked well-cared for, beautifully clean, and cheerful. Their dishes were pretty, and the wards were bright and pleasant. The guide-book (Macmillan) says that it is difficult, sometimes impossible, to get nurses in Athens, and adds: "A nurse may sometimes be spared from the hospital, but she usually knows no English. The hospital itself is well-managed, but nursing as a profession is hardly recognized in Greece."

There could hardly be much demand in Athens for English-speaking nurses, as the tourist season is short, and one could not get along in Greek homes without knowing the language and the customs. But there ought to be room soon for a good training-school for Greeks, and with this excellent hospital and modern scientific physicians there I hope the school will soon appear.

L. L. D.

ITEMS

ONE of the most delightful incidents of a delightful trip has been meeting and visiting Miss Hart at Robert College. Miss Hart, as Bellevue nurses will know, is a graduate of that school, and has spent the greater part of her time since graduation abroad. For a number of years she has been in the college, which, as everyone knows, is an American college for young men of any nationality, situated on the most beautiful point of the Bosphorus near Constantinople. Miss Hart is in charge of the students' health. I went up to see her immediately on arrival, again with Miss Stilson, and afterwards spent two days with her in the college, and two other memorable ones in being conducted by her to see hospitals and other sights. She told me that I was only the second American nurse who has ever been to see her. She has not revisited America in twelve years, and I think I have persuaded her to come next summer in vacation time. She has employed her vacations, when the college is closed, in visiting all sorts

of places that one does not usually get to. She is the only person I have ever been able to find who has visited Russian hospitals, and I told her I should announce in the *JOURNAL* that we expected some articles from her. She also gave me news of another Bellevue nurse, Miss Trowbridge, who is in charge of a hospital at Aintab, in Asia Minor, where she has been for more than fifteen years.

Miss Hart's domicile in the college is about as lovely as anything could be. Two great, roomy, airy apartments filled with pretty things from all lands look out over the Bosphorus and its shores. The samovar is always ready for tea, and the Oriental habit of unbounded hospitality is in full force. It is dangerous to admire things, because you find them in your carriage when you leave.

I also met there Dr. Ottley, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, who is professor of biology in the college. He was much pleased to see the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Alumnae Journal*, which I had just received by mail, and inquired after many old acquaintances.

The Turkish hospitals must have a number all to themselves.



EXPERIMENTS AS TO THE AMOUNT OF FOOD NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN HUMAN LIFE IN GOOD HEALTH.—The *Medical Record* says: "The chief paper read before the National Academy of Sciences on April 20 was a description of a series of experiments recently carried out by the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale to determine whether the average human being does not eat too much. Professor Russell H. Chittenden, the director of the school, and who read the paper, said three classes of men were experimented on—several professors at the school, several students, and a squad of United States soldiers. There was a gradual reduction of meat and other proteid foods, with little, if any, increase in starch and other foods in nearly all the tests. No fixed regimen was required in any case, the endeavor being to satisfy the appetite of each subject. At the end of the experiments, which lasted for six months, all the men experimented upon were in the best of health. Their weight in some cases was almost exactly the same as when the experiments were begun, and in some slightly lower. Their bodily vigor was greater and their strength was much increased, partially owing to their regular physical exercises, and partially owing, Professor Chittenden believes, to the smaller amount of food eaten. As a result of the experiments, Professor Chittenden concludes that the ordinary individual eats far more than is required to keep him in good physical and mental health and vigor."

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.—The King has been pleased to sanction the appointment of Miss Florence Nightingale as Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. In May Miss Nightingale celebrated the eighty-fourth anniversary of her birth. She received at her residence in South Street, Park Lane, a large number of congratulatory telegrams and messages, and there were even more afternoon callers than usual. Miss Nightingale, who continues to enjoy fairly good health and to take an unabated interest in works of charity, celebrated her birthday in the quietest manner.